

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful examination of this case. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant remarks.

In view of the Examiner's objections to claims 11 – 15, these claims have been replaced by new claims 16 – 20. The new claim 16 corresponds to claim 11 as last examined but it additionally specifies the presence of a cylinder head. The suction gas chamber is specified to be positioned between the valve plate and the cylinder head. The drawing has been amended to show these features. New matter has not been entered because the cylinder head was referred to in the description.

With regard to paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the new claim 11 just specifies a reed valve, which avoids amending the drawing to show a plurality of reed valves.

With regard to paragraphs 4 – 8 of the Office Action, the new claim 16 – 20 have been carefully worded to meet the objections raised by the Examiner. In particular, the reference to the "plurality of reed valves" has been removed. The new claims 16 – 19 all now correctly refer to a valve plate assembly.

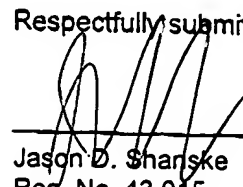
With regard to paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the Office Action, it is believed that the new claim 16 now clearly states the difference over JP10-213077 and Becker et al (US 5,275,541). The Applicant was obliged to the Examiner for the detailed explanation of what is disclosed in these two citations. However, it is to be emphasised that neither citation discloses a valve plate assembly having a cylinder head, and a suction gas chamber positioned between the valve plate and the cylinder head, with the damper tube extending into the suction chamber. In both citations, the tube extends to atmosphere and not into a suction gas chamber positioned between a valve plate and a cylinder head. The Applicant's arrangement is an internal arrangement which is internal to the compressor or pump containing the valve plate assembly. This internal arrangement is completely different to the external arrangements shown in the two citations.

Also in connection with the cited USA Patent to Becker et al, it is believed that the length of the port shown in Figure 1 is insufficient to constitute a tube. This is because the sectional view shown in Figure 1 in Becker et al is misleading. A drawing showing the inlet port configuration and the disk valve from above is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this **RESPONSE** is found to be **INCOMPLETE**, or if at any time it appears that a **TELEPHONE CONFERENCE** with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or one of his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawing

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet